





## North-west water levy may be trebled to meet sewerage crisis

John Charles  
Trington  
The North-west Water Authority has agreed on a programme of "conditioning" its million consumers between Crewe and Carlisle to the use of higher rates, perhaps twice the present level. It believes that will be necessary in the next few years to its 100-year-old sewerage system into reasonable order. About 3,500 miles of the region's sewers are more than a century old, and some in use for 150 years. The unusual subject of sewerage, which has earned such causes as "flush it and forget" and "there are no votes in sewage", has been very much the news during the past year in Manchester.

A series of collapses in that has led to the closure of the city centre streets and traffic diversions which have highlighted the seriousness of the situation to the people.

Geoffrey Read, the Manchester city engineer, told *The Times*: "Unless we have a very injection of cash in the few years I am seriously concerned about the potential risk to the public".

The North-west is probably more serious position than rest of the nation because of sparsity of the population there during the industrial lution.

Between 1800 and 1850 the population of the North-west trebled, whereas that of England and Wales only tripled, and most of the sewers in use today were laid down at that period.

Most of them were built as tunnels and the combination of age, the increased production of chemical effluent and effects of more and heavier vehicles moving over the is bringing about a crisis.

Conservative estimates suggest that at least an extra annual amount would be needed in the North-west over the next years to renovate and replace system.

### il allowed for o of nine ld in raids

vo of the nine people gaged by the police after before Christmas, were tailed bail at Lambeth strates' Court, London, today.

Peter Duffy, head of land Yards' anti-terrorist d, said he no longer ced to bail for Bernard idy, aged 41, and his wife, an, aged 34, both of Ashmead Road, Liverpool. Mr d Prys Jones, the magis, ruled that they should in custody until suitable ties of £1,000 each could be made.

Mr and Mrs Cassidy are gaged with withholding information. Mrs Christine han, aged 43, of Bartley 4, Belfast, like all the rest the nine accused, was banded in custody until January 3. She was also charged with withholding information.

Mrs Margaret Parratt, aged 60, of Woodland Way, Wetherby, and Miss Jacqueline alley, aged 30, of Wetherby, Notting Hill, both face a charge of conning to cause an explosion as well as withholding information.

Our men were charged with piring to cause an explosion and with possessing arms, with conspiring to obtain information and with less ammunition.

They were Robert Story, 23, of Riverside Park, Belfast; Richard Cleary, aged 46, John Campbell, aged 37, and Gerald Tuft, 32, all of Holland Park, London.

## 00 give evidence to lorry inquiry

John Young  
Driving Reporter

In the next few days members of the inquiry of lorries, and the environment, under the chairmanship of Sir Hur, will begin to add analysis of the millions of pieces of evidence that have been submitted in the last few weeks.

Well before the original deadline of November 9 expired, when 600 and 700 submissions had been received, new data taken aback by the amount of interest, the Department of Transport agreed to end the closing date until end of the year.

The Countrywide Commission, Civic Trust and the Council for the Protection of Rural England have published their evidence in the last month. The inquiry does not have started in a royal commission, and is not expected to take much that is not already known. Its primary task is to determine where supposed areas appear to be in conflict, to decide where the public interest lies.

Given the strength of feeling the subject, that will not be easy. Few people in Britain are unaffected by the issue of heavy lorries, whether they are motorists tied in traffic jams, residents fortunate enough to live on near trunk roads, or taxpayers faced with rising bills for road repairs.

The extent to which freight transport has over the years switched from rail and water road is still not fully appreciated. In Britain, in terms of tonne-kilometres, 64 per

## Rates 'could differ by £130' in new system

By Christopher Warman  
Local Government Correspondent

The rates paid by householders could differ by as much as £130 a year, depending on where they lived, if different local authorities chose to levy the same rate in the pound, the Association of Metropolitan Authorities claims today.

A serious additional difficulty, according to Mr David Young, principal engineer in the authority's operations directorate, is the low pay and unattractiveness of the sewerman's job.

Sewermen, Mr Young said, sometimes take home less than £35 a week.

Local authorities at district level are the agents responsible for carrying out inspection, maintenance and repair, the sum for the work being paid by the water authority.

Mr Read foresees several different kinds of dangers if the citizens of Manchester, if the position is not rectified soon.

The risk of road vehicles falling into holes big enough to contain a double-deck bus is one.

Another is the back-up of foul sewage in the basements of buildings, and that happened quite recently to one of the city's best known hotels, a third of the accompanying failure of gas mains and electricity cables.

Manchester believes it has a special case for more money from the water authority and has sent numerous deputations to the headquarters near Warrington. The authority recognises Manchester's plight but its engineers say there are equal risks in most of the old industrial towns straddling the southern part of the region.

Both bodies make the point that it was the mills and the mines and the expanding working-class population of the North-west that built up the region's prosperity at the end of the nineteenth century and that the nation as a whole should consider contributing towards helping the region in its time, if unseen and often conveniently forgotten, problem.

**£2,800 outlay brought £880,000**

## Down in the Forest some business ideas stirred

From Arthur Osman  
Nottingham

The immediate benefits to a community of having a successful Association Football club in its midst have not always been apparent in the past decade with the price of often having to pay the bill and pick up the pieces after the results of vandalism and hooliganism.

However, a different picture has emerged at Nottingham, where the local authority awaits the draw on January 11 for the next round of the European Cup with as much eagerness as the Nottingham Forest club and its followers.

A successful working partnership between Nottinghamshire County Council and the club has been forged in the past year. It has so far led to an estimated £880,000 of new business for commerce and industry in the area for an outlay of £2,800.

When the club qualified for the European Cup, which it brought new business estimated at £880,000. It also put the East Midlands on the tourist map, included in Swiss tours of England for the first time.

Subsequent visits to Cologne and Munich, where Forest carried off the trophy, brought important new leads.

For the second season the club has played in Sweden and Norway, and a trade delegation is expected in Nottingham from Sweden.

At the same time the liaison, which becomes the liaison, was negotiating for a loan for ground improvements, and the county lent it £250,000. The club guaranteed four places to the authority on its foreign excursions.

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Given the strength of feeling the subject, that will not be easy. Few people in Britain are unaffected by the issue of heavy lorries, whether they are motorists tied in traffic jams, residents fortunate enough to live on near trunk roads, or taxpayers faced with rising bills for road repairs.

The introduction of compulsory lorry routes has not proved popular. Most local authorities have backed away from the

idea. An exception is Berkshire County Council, which recently established what it calls the "Windsor corridor" to divert traffic from the centre of the town.

It has infuriated hauliers, who claim it is costing the industry £500,000 a year, and has met with a distinctly cool response in neighbouring Buckinghamshire, which claims to be suffering from extra traffic as a result.

One factor to which the inquiry will have to give much thought is the dispute in the EEC over lorry weights.

Britain at present permits a maximum axle load of 10.16 tonnes and is seeking an overall maximum vehicle weight of 44 tonnes. But in France the axle load limit is 13 tonnes, and in the Netherlands there is a vehicle limit of 50 tonnes.

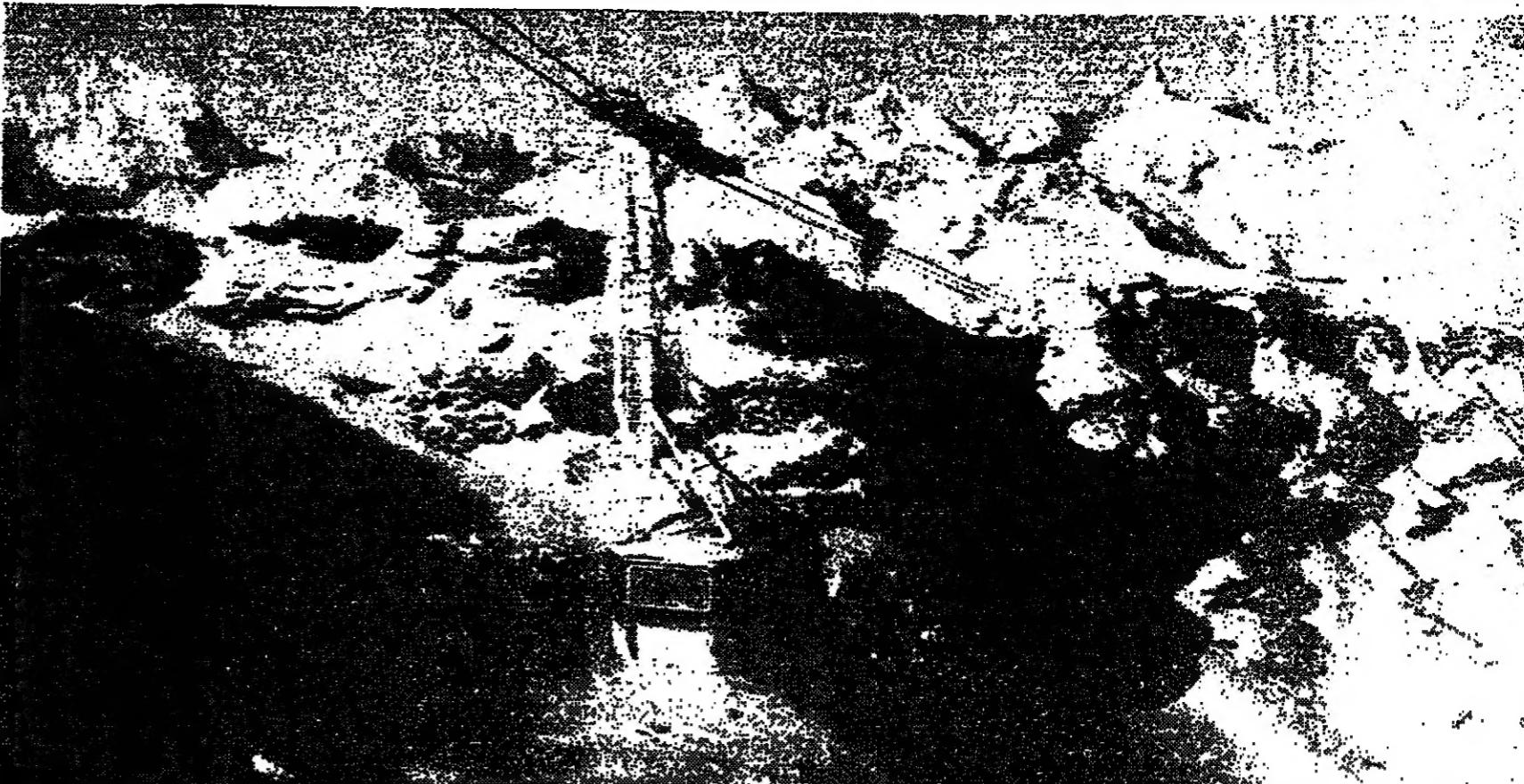
Controversy still surrounds the so-called Fourth Power Law, which is based on a series of exhaustive tests in the United States more than twenty years ago and postulates that very small increases in axle loadings cause disproportionate damage to roads.

The haulage industry claims that the American tests were carried out in very different climatic conditions, and that the results are not applicable in Britain.

Conservative insist that the "law" greatly underestimates the damage done by even relatively light vehicles. To judge from recent reports on the state of Britain's motorways, and the likely cost and extent of repairs, they could well be right.

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## WEST EUROPE



Europe's highest cableway above Zermatt, Switzerland, takes sightseers and skiers up to 12,530ft on the Little Matterhorn. It made its inaugural run on Christmas Day.

## French deputies bring families to holiday-time parliament

From Charles Hargrove  
Paris, Dec 27

The National Assembly reconvened today in an atmosphere of confusion and political tension for the extraordinary session decreed by President Giscard d'Estrées.

The Constitutional Council on Christmas Eve had declared the 1980 budget null and void, thus wiping out two months of hectic and acrimonious discussion in both the Lower and the Upper Houses, and compelling the deputies to go through it again, if possible by January 1, the start of the new financial year.

This was obviously out of the question, even if all the parties concerned had been willing to play the game.

The Gaullists, who seemed vaguely conscious yesterday that they had adequately made their point by voting against the budget the first time, and incurring if only indirectly, some of the responsibilities for the reconvening of Parliament out of season, had by today hardened their stand.

If the Government, as it turned out, was prepared to make only minor concessions, and treat the whole affair, in President Giscard d'Estrées's words last night, as a procedural hitch, while they regarded it as a matter of principle, then they would stick to their guns, and vote against the budget again.

Then came the club's visit to Zurich, which provided the success story of the season for the authority. An advance party, including Mr Jeffrey Harblin, director of the East Midlands tourist Board, was sent to Switzerland to establish contacts.

That was a trade mission to Zurich three months ago which brought new business estimated at £880,000. It also put the East Midlands on the tourist map, included in Swiss tours of England for the first time.

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**Scientists point to ways technology can help in solving some global difficulties**

By Pearce Wright  
Science Editor

The contributions that science and technology could make to resolving the problems of the global recession, the crisis in energy supplies and non-renewable raw materials, the uncertainties raised by the development of the micro processor and the hazards of nuclear power, are suggested in an extensive study sponsored by the Science Committee of Nato.

The examination formed a debate between 30 eminent people from science and engineering, economics, education, and the political and social sciences. It poses many questions as well as answers.

For example, if past patterns of industrial growth are not going to be repeated, what kind of progress and economic transformation can be expected, and what patterns of science and technology would be appropriate?

The answer to these questions may lead to the adoption of less energy-intensive methods of work and living, producing less damage to the environment. But it raises

enormous social, political and technical issues associated with such change.

Yet in spite of the immensity of the subject, the overall conclusion of the debate is that "we are in a position to choose our future, not simply to experience it". The deliberations behind that conclusion have been published in two volumes under the title *Science & Future Choice*. The theme of the first is "building on scientific achievement" and it shows the role of fundamental research both in cultural activity as in our own rights and as an economic resource.

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**OVERSEAS****Pol Pot in command despite reshuffle among Khmer Rouge**

From Neil Kelly

Bangkok, Dec 27  
Despite his replacement as Prime Minister, Mr Pol Pot who has been accused of the worst crimes against humanity since Hitler, remains the effective leader of the deposed Khmer Rouge regime in Kampuchea.

"He still has the key jobs of supreme military commander and party leader", a Western diplomat said here.

Broadcasting today from China, the Khmer Rouge radio said President Khou Samphan, head of state, had become Prime Minister in place of Mr Pol Pot who was named as supreme military commander.

The change is regarded in the region as an inadequate attempt to improve the image of the Pol Pot regime overthrown in January with the help of the Vietnamese. The regime's policy of掠奪 private property rights and religious freedom to individuals is seen as a last ditch attempt by Mr Pol Pot and his colleagues to win support.

A Thai Army spokesman said the government change would not alter the military situation as Khmer Rouge and anti-communist Kampuchean guerrillas were already collaborating in some border areas. "Pol Pot's last night produced no change but nothing else," he said.

Colonel Rihol Ruprien, second-in-command of the Second Infantry Regiment on the border said the Vietnamese Army across the border was too weak to launch an offensive against resistance fighters.

"Each Vietnamese soldier has only two or three rounds of ammunition," he said. "For that and other reasons we expect only limited action by Vietnamese units in border areas."

**Ex-president faces trial for illegal Seoul rally**

Souk, Dec 27.—The martial law authorities said today that they would put on trial an 83-year-old former President of South Korea and 17 other dissidents on charges of holding an unauthorized anti-government rally in Seoul last month.

A martial law spokesman said 14 of the dissidents were placed under arrest but former President Posun Yun, Mr Han Suk-Hon, who is 78 and a civic leader, and two others had been arrested and released. Mr Yun was accused of contributing £180 to the dissident gathering.

Among those arrested was Mr Uwon Soon-Shik, aged 54, a former legislator of the government party.

The spokesman said that 10 other dissidents, most of them former students expelled from university for anti-government activities, were wanted in connection with the rally in Seoul on November 24.

A total of 237 people were held originally but all except the 18 charged today were released later with warnings, the spokesman added.

**Girls in Peking Peace Cafe mixed too freely**

Peking, Dec 27.—Peking police have arrested a group of youths who "profited by encouraging girls to hang around with foreigners", the Peking Daily said today.

The newspaper said the youths often frequented the Peace Cafe, one of the few places in the Chinese capital where foreigners and local Chinese can mix freely.

"Since last September, these hooligans, dressed seductively, often gathered together at the Peace Cafe and other places committing all kinds of our-

"Yeng Jiaquan and Liu Xiaoming, the principal criminals, wear so far as to profit from encouraging girl foreigners to hang around with foreigners", the newspaper said, adding that the youths had harmed China's national honour by their behaviour.

A sign outside the Peace Cafe today said it would be moving tomorrow to alternative premises a few doors from its present site. Reuter.

**Africa church conference appeals for extra funds**

From Our Correspondent

Nairobi, Dec 27  
The All Africa Conference of Churches, which has its headquarters here, is appealing to its member churches for additional funds to overcome financial difficulties.

Mr Kodwo Ankrum, a Ghanaian who is acting general secretary said overseas donors had been withholding donations to the conference until a leadership crisis and other problems were resolved.

Cand Burgess Carr, the general secretary, left Kenya five years ago after being critical of Kenya Government leaders when he compared Kenya under the late President Kenyatta to Ethiopia under the late Emperor Haile Selassie.

Most of Africa's main Protestant churches are affiliated to the conference.

**Stone Age skeleton**

Peking, Dec 27.—A man digging foundations for a kiln in Shanxi province found a well-preserved human skeleton from the new Stone Age, dating from between 4,000 and 9,000 years ago.

**Nato link reaffirmed by Turkish minister**

From Sinan Fisek

Ankara, Dec 27

Turkey will pursue its "multi-faced" foreign policy, but will not allow this to interfere with its relations with the Western world, Mr Hayrettin Erkmen, the new Foreign Minister, said in a policy speech criticized by the Opposition as being too "pro-Western".

He told the Parliamentary budget committee that Turkey had a role to play alongside all "peace and justice-loving countries and peoples" in supporting the Khmer Rouge against Vietnamese aggression.

Mr Pich Cheang urged Sweden to reconsider its decision to authorize the pro-Vietnamese Heng Samrin regime to open a press office in Stockholm. He described the Heng Samrin regime in Phnom Penh as "a puppet of the lowest kind". Agence France-Presse

Refugee's fate: The EEC Commission expressed concern at the fate of refugees from Kampuchea following reports of impending new military operations along the border with Thailand.

The ministry of men, women and children massed there must not be aggravated by the sufferings, wounds and deaths that such operations would cause among innocent civilian victims", it said in a statement.

The Commission would continue to do everything it could to help these populations through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Red Cross and other non-governmental organizations working in the field, it said.

The Commission praised recent workers and demanded any action that could endanger their lives. —Reuter.



## SPORT

Cricket

## England are led by Botham for first time

From a Special Correspondent

Brisbane, Dec. 27.—Ian Botham, the 24-year-old Somerset all-rounder, will have his first taste of captaincy since his days as a Yeovil schoolboy nine years ago when England play Queensland here tomorrow. Of the two senior players on the tour-selection panel, Brearley has stayed behind in Sydney after losing eight wickets on Saturday in the one-day competition, and Willis, the vice-captain, is preserving his energies for the second Test which starts there tomorrow week.

England will be meeting a much weakened team from the one they played in their first match in early November. Even without Boycott—who has been stood down after scores of 101 not out, 110, 65 not out, 68, 105, 0, 95 not out, 68 and 86 not out—they should in four days be able to add a second Test win to the one they achieved in Tasmania at the beginning of the month.

Apart from Greg Chappell and Dineen, who are playing for Australia against West Indies, Malcolm Thomson is out of the main tour because of a troublesome ankle injury; Westley and Carlson are unavailable. There is also doubt about Kent, a stroke-making middle-order batsman who at the end of the tour was thought to have a chance of playing for Australia. Thomson's place is taken by Len Balcan, a young fast-medium left-hand bowler, who took three for 56, including Boycott's wicket, when England played Queensland 12 months ago.

England's priority, perhaps even ahead of winning, will be to find a replacement for the last game before the Sydney Test. Boycott aside, Willey is the only batsman scoring consistently and then only in the one-day games with the rigorous demands on technique and concentration.

Botham, who is in the side to bat and to bowl only in emergency, has passed 20 once in two months. Against Combined Universities he made two runs in his first innings and Gower repeatedly has got himself out after playing himself in. Gooch, with fewest chances, has looked in better touch this week, though he too, has often shown his lack of form.

Except for a three-day match against New South Wales at the end of January, this is England's



Yeovil boy makes good: Ian Botham, England's new captain.

D. Gower, R. Taylor, J. Emburey, G. Dilley, G. Stevenson, J. Lever.

QUEENSLAND (from L. G. Carter, A. Parry, N. Langley, W. Broad, D. Schutte, C. Rasmussen, M. Gaskill).

Lloyd under scrutiny: The West Indies Cricket Board of Control (WICB) said yesterday in Port of Spain its selection committee would decide next month whether Lloyd would stay on as West Indies captain for another year. Roster reports, Lloyd is now leading the West Indies team touring Australia, has said who would like to retire soon. The WICB said the selection committee would make a decision in the coming series against India on or before January 15.

Total of wickets: 5-18, 6-131, 8-106, 11-104, 12-104, 13-104, 14-104, 15-104, 16-104, 17-104, 18-104, 19-104, 20-104, 21-104, 22-104, 23-104, 24-104, 25-104, 26-104, 27-104, 28-104, 29-104, 30-104, 31-104, 32-104, 33-104, 34-104, 35-104, 36-104, 37-104, 38-104, 39-104, 40-104, 41-104, 42-104, 43-104, 44-104, 45-104, 46-104, 47-104, 48-104, 49-104, 50-104, 51-104, 52-104, 53-104, 54-104, 55-104, 56-104, 57-104, 58-104, 59-104, 60-104, 61-104, 62-104, 63-104, 64-104, 65-104, 66-104, 67-104, 68-104, 69-104, 70-104, 71-104, 72-104, 73-104, 74-104, 75-104, 76-104, 77-104, 78-104, 79-104, 80-104, 81-104, 82-104, 83-104, 84-104, 85-104, 86-104, 87-104, 88-104, 89-104, 90-104, 91-104, 92-104, 93-104, 94-104, 95-104, 96-104, 97-104, 98-104, 99-104, 100-104, 101-104, 102-104, 103-104, 104-104, 105-104, 106-104, 107-104, 108-104, 109-104, 110-104, 111-104, 112-104, 113-104, 114-104, 115-104, 116-104, 117-104, 118-104, 119-104, 120-104, 121-104, 122-104, 123-104, 124-104, 125-104, 126-104, 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## ENTERTAINMENTS

**S** Usual seats at set price to students last before performances

## OPERA AND BALLET

COVENT GARDEN CC 8.30-10.00  
Gardenside Rd, WC2H 4DU Tel 01-580 1000  
THE ROYAL OPERA  
Royal Opera House, 2nd Floor, Covent Garden, WC2E 9ED  
Tues 7.30 LE TRAVIATA  
The Royal Ballet  
Tues 7.30  
Wed 8.00 CINDERELLA  
Fri 8.00 GISELLE, Sat 10.00  
Sat 10.00 GISELLE, Sun 10.00  
Box office 01-580 1000  
Reservations 01-580 5253

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA  
Venice, London, 8 Wed 7.30 A night  
Box office 01-580 1000  
ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL 10.00-11.30  
London Festival Ballet, Spectacular Parade of Nations  
The Nutcracker  
Box office 01-580 1000  
ADLER WELLS THEATRE Rosebud  
Box office 01-580 1000  
DOYLY CARTE  
1st GILBERT & SULLIVAN, Jan 3, 2.30 & 7.30  
2nd GILBERT & SULLIVAN, Jan 4, 2.30 & 7.30  
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Sidney Weighell on the critical need for Labour Party reform

# What Labour must do to avoid another defeat

Those of us in the trade union movement who seek reforms within the Labour Party have noted its failure, electorally and organizationally, and aim to make it strong again.

Our objective is a strengthened and unified party with policies relevant to British society at the threshold of the twenty-first century.

The need for an inquiry by a balanced and representative committee has to be set against the backdrop of the last general election. This saw the largest post-war swing against a party in power, with the largest swings against Labour occurring among the young, skilled workers, and in the areas of greatest prosperity. The fact is that Labour is appealing to an aging sector of the population and to a small modern segment of society. We are doomed to further failure unless we can adjust our policies to meet the interests of those elements in the population which represent the future shape of British society.

We failed, therefore, because we failed to project the right policies. We need to generate a programme which provides a middle way between day-to-day pragmatism and an out-dated socialist fundamentalism. It must be a coherent programme and it must have a vision the Tories at the last general election were able to persuade people that they had an over-arching view of society. It needs to balance the commitment to social justice without which we could not exist as a party with the recognition that, in an affluent and property-owning democracy people are far more concerned than before with the protection of their individual material stake in society.

We failed also because we failed to reconcile our own internal differences. We failed in an immediate and practical sense because as an organization we lack the resources of finance, of management, of manpower, and of imagination required to fight modern election campaigns.

We need the right policies. We need to be united behind those policies, and we need a modern,

well-organized party based on an expanding membership.

The present system by which we evolve policies in the party is clearly inadequate. Party policy at the moment is for the most part generated by a small London-based coterie around the National Executive Committee. The policies thus created are then endorsed—and, very often, worse, amended—on the basis of a hasty and normally quite superficial debate at annual conference. It is not surprising that the commitments that we enter into are unrealistic. Because they do not stand up to the realities, such policies are abandoned by ministers almost immediately. Ministers are then forced to fall back on the civil servants who are not primarily guided by the interests of the Labour Party in power to serve. This is the self-created source of division and dissent within the party.

We need to adopt a more painstaking and responsible approach towards formulating our policies. It is ludicrous that annual conferences should be required to take an ill-considered view on 30 major policy statements and find that none can be implemented.

It is far more sensible that it should examine three policy areas in detail, with the confidence that they are going to be carried forward by a Labour government. Why cannot the British Labour Party take a leaf out of the book of the German Social Democrats at their biennial congress? The Germans restrict the plenary sessions to two days out of the five, and spend the rest of the time with delegates divided into a handful of sections studying policy proposals in detail and reporting back to the full conference with a recommendation for approval?

It is not only the intensity with which we consider the policies that we are failing to place before the British people that needs to be changed. The whole policy-making process needs to involve far broader sections of the party than at present. That is also a guarantee that the policies will better reflect the interests of the electorate as a whole. Policy-making must be driven back

**Sidney Weighell:  
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to the grass roots of the movement. Constituency Labour Parties and affiliated organizations must be consulted at the initial stage and not presented with a fait accompli. This could take the form of an invitation to comment on and amend a brief statement prepared by the party's research department.

The next stage could involve the regional conference.

At present, they fulfill no useful function. Why cannot they be reorganized so as to devote one or two days to an intensive discussion on one or two "issues of the year" on the basis of the submissions received from the constituencies and the trade unions? The agreed recommendations of the regional conferences could then be forwarded as the basis of discussion and debate at annual conference. In practice, among the politicians proper on the NEC, there is only a small minority with past experience or future prospects of

exercising government responsibility. On this basis, therefore, there is a case for opening up the NEC to include representation for local councillors and for representation of the Parliamentary Labour Party.

The other problem is that the constituency section of the NEC over-represents the strength of the so-called left within the Labour Party. Because the constituency section contains the most active NEC members (and there is a lesson for the trade union in that), this left-wing bias is damaging and divisive for the party.

The plain fact is that, taken overall, there probably is a broad left-wing majority in the constituency parties. Yet, any active Labour Party member knows that the ratio of left to right is not 7:5—the present political complexion of the NEC's constituency section. Clearly, the present voting mechanism is

grossly distorting the true range of views in the constituencies.

One way of gaining a more representative cross-section of the party on the NEC would be to place voting for the NEC constituency members at a more local level: hence the proposal that the regional conferences should elect representatives to the NEC. This would have the merit of ensuring a more grassroots relationship between the NEC representatives and the party. It would also reflect the more important role of the regional conferences as proposed above.

This proposal for regional conference NEC representatives would not necessarily exclude a continuation of an annual conference elected constituency section. However, even if there is a case for this, it is very difficult to see the case for continuing with the NEC women's section. The sole justification for this section is positive discrimination in favour of an underprivileged group. Yet the sad fact is that over the years the existence of a women's section has not had the effect of favouring the participation of women in the party, as can be seen by the decline in the number of women MPs. There needs to be other remedies to achieve a higher participation of women in the party. In principle, it is contradictory to argue against discrimination between the sexes in society at large and, at the same time, to discriminate massively in favour of women as the Labour Party does. There may nonetheless be a case for a representative of the Labour women's conference on the NEC.

Setting the framework for sensible policies and a unified leadership is one thing; getting the message across is another, and that depends on a good organization for which manpower and money are essential. Obviously, policies more in tune with present-day requirements will make the party more attractive to potential members. But those members will still have to be won over for that, and there is no substitute for individual effort and political will for that.

The Labour Party must resume its role as a campaigning party,

After long years in local and central government, it may be that we have become too much a party concerned with administering society and too little concerned with changing it. We have almost certainly concentrated on generalized idealistic solutions at the expense of dealing with the real problems that concern people in their localities. Yet, one of the great contemporary trends in British society is the proliferation of groups concerned with specific causes—protection for the elderly, for the homeless, for battered women, for child poverty—and with community problems. The party must get to grips with these identified with such issues at the local level, and in doing so it will win new recruits into the party.

We also need to win elections, and for that we need a soundly financed national organization. It appears to be the case that the trade unions have come to the end of their tether as far as extra money for the party is concerned. The constituency parties—between them, of course, raise approximately £1m each year, but naturally most of this goes on local organization with only a small residue for the central party. Even with increased contributions, there is unlikely to be much extra available for the central party in a period of high inflation.

All this poses the question of state finance for political parties. As far as the Labour Party is concerned, the objective has always been that state funding might encourage the leadership to distance itself from the base—the trade unions and the constituencies. That is a risk which must be recognized frankly. Yet, as a result of recent conference decisions and with the changes in policy-making proposed here, there would appear to be some guarantees against this: and, more importantly, less incentive. The benefits of state-funding are crystal clear—especially, when the facilities of parties like the Swedes and German Social Democrats are compared with our own "peanut-battering" machine locally and nationally.

The author is general secretary, National Union of Railmen.

would never have been written if it had not been for his influence or advice.

He met Wilfrid Thesiger through Gavin Maxwell, then a cheetah. He said that this man was an absolutely fantastic collector of photographs. In his flat followed the whole of his past expeditions to Arabia and the mountains of Turkistan, and the islands of Iraq. I got in touch, how far there was nothing we could do, but I went round and looked at the photographs. He was so shy and modest. I established some sort of contact, and convinced him that he was wrong in thinking that his interest was purely personal, and that he had something to say. The result was *Arabian Sands* and *Moss Arabs*, a great reward.

"Elizabeth Longford wrote, at my suggestion, a large-scale book on Queen Victoria, and I suggested she should then do a book on Mary, Queen of Scots. At this precise moment she was offered the previously unlooked-at papers of the Duke of Wellington, which produced two marvellous books. At this point Alistair Fraser, whom I hadn't previously met, rang me and said she was passionately interested in Mary, Queen of Scots, and could she make over the biography?

"After a long time of involvement on the managerial side of the firm, which has seen probably an eight-fold increase in business, I can hope to leave this to other hands. The other side, which is dealing with authors, was so enormously attractive and rewarding that it is only with reluctance that I give it up. So it's really isn't going to give it up, but will continue with most of his old clients.

"I think the pleasure involved in being an agent is the tremendously close and intimate relationship that the agent has with the author, in many ways like that of a doctor or solicitor—and it's extremely rewarding if one is able to feel a necessary cog in the wheel—it's nothing to do with the financial return one gets."

"For most authors writing is a pretty isolated profession, and they have to have somebody they feel is on their side—which doesn't necessarily apply to a publisher. Sometimes the publisher's interests conflict with the author's, whereas there can be no actual conflict of any sort with an agent and an agent in conflict, as the agent is compensated to the extent that the author is compensated."

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will never be written if it had not been for his influence or advice.

His own memoir, *Book Society*, will be published on March 20, by Andre Deutsch.

"The agent is no longer regarded as a common villain. I recommend it: a more enjoyable way of earning one's living it would be impossible to devise."

Philippa Toomey

## Will theology finally topple the Ayatollah?

Charles Douglas-Home analyses the influences at work behind the scenes in Iran: 'The other senior Ayatollahs do not accept Khomeini's leadership in theological matters'.

Behind the political differences which have arisen between Ayatollah Khomeini's regime in Tehran and the demands for regional autonomy for Azerbaijan, led by Ayatollah Sharif Madari, a much more fundamental theological argument is taking root.

Since February revolution in Iran, most western opinion seems to have been mesmerized by Khomeini's rhetoric, and his fundamentalist approach to religion. However, though his dictatorial methods may have been discredited, it has been assumed that his doctrine must be unarguable. The world outside Islam feels unqualified to question his Islamic credentials. In Iran itself that is not the case; though his dictatorial methods—censorship, almost summary justice and the arbitrary terror of armed gangs—have all helped to cover legitimate and authoritative criticisms of Khomeini's religious doctrine. The criticism has become more evident since Ayatollah Sharif Madari has been thrust into greater prominence and opposition over the regional autonomy question. This has given fresh significance to his religious dispute with Khomeini about the role and authority of the clergy in politics.

Khomeini's Islamic constitution would establish a supreme religious figure (presumably himself) as the ultimate political authority—and an executive one at that. His vision of an Islamic government was first enunciated in a series of lectures when he was an exile in Iraq and now translated into a French booklet. He maintains that since the Prophet Mohammed is the law, the government of Islam must be based on the principles of the Qur'an and the Sunna of the Prophet. Khomeini's insistence of the uniqueness of his position in Islam has already attracted some criticism even in Teheran. Letters are now circulating which draw attention to his oft-stated warning that if his Iranian revolution is defeated, Islam will be defeated.

However, Khomeini's proposal to establish a theocratic authority as the supreme institution of government lays claim to direct political power in the name of religion for the first time in the 1300-year-old history

of Islam, and Sharif Madari and his followers maintain that it goes against the whole Islamic tradition.

In the Shi'ite sect, extreme ideologues tend to assert that all temporal government is a usurpation until the "hidden Imam" reappears, but such an idealistic position has never been practical politics in a sect which was quite willing to be appointed the official state religion of Iran in the 16th century. However, it was introduced then as much for nationalistic reasons as for religious ones.

The Savard Shahs wanted to exploit its ideology of separation so as to detach Iran from the bulk of the Islamic empire ruled by their enemies, the Turks. It was, therefore, necessary to foster a religious enthusiasm which both expressed Persian nationalism and separated Persian religion from the Turkish variety.

Khomeini argues that his

followers are entitled to be the inheritors of the Prophet's temporal, as well as spiritual, authority.

The sources are not in dispute, though Khomeini's interpretation of them is. However, even before this interpretation is debated, the question of whether or not in theological matters Khomeini is any more authoritative than his fellow Ayatollahs is still unresolved.

Periodically in Shi'ite Islam the consensus of Ayatollahs assigns a leadership role in theology to one of their number, after which they would defer to his authority. The last Ayatollah to hold that kind of first-among-equals position was Burujirdi who died in 1960. But even he did not venture far into political matters.

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# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

JULY 1979

Markets  
414 down 2.  
to 65.46 down 0.02

Ling  
2.18 cents  
70.5 up 0.7

ar  
1.1 down 0.2

ounce up \$24.25

nti money  
156 to 151  
15 to 14

**BRIEF**  
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llips

onnel the food and group is seeking to Kearley & Tonge division of Interives, the British tobacco subsidiary, it released by both ter might give no f possible terms, estimates suggest ley & Tonge opera- worth between

national expanded last food sectors and continued pressure and phase of the dictated by Tesco.

Kearley & Tonge's has hardly in- 18 month turnover is still in. In this time has closed a num- alliance cash and

Connell, which al- a big whole- n through Booker interested in ac- ley & Tonge's 41 ry outlets and 10 uses.

witch market is returning said Mr Peter f surveyor of the ga & Thanet build- which is the sixth a country, in his housing market abated yesterday.

order national Combustion s won an order £5m for boilers, handling plant

Products, the on subsidiary of Roche, the Swiss group. The will be the main over plant insula's new vitamin C Y. Ayrshire.

motions Trade Board, t of trade fairs er review in light pending curta, less than 100 British our trade fairs in mon. Products Jaded record sheet, resi- aware, disposable iment, hospital he and pleasure

or Shotton £520,000 in case of the planned Shotton Steel- Wales has been Mr Nicholas Welsh Secretary.

ning to US. chical foreign trade s warned the that import re- Chinese goods ered if America i with China.

rate ational Monetary rease the interest speal. Drawing y on January first quarter of rest rate will be up from 7.75 per r borrowing and to countries with 8.325 per cent.

PRICE CHANGES

20c to 30c	72c to 92c
51 to 52c	72c to 92c
55c to 58c	62c to 62c
55c to 56c	45c to 52c
40c to 50c	40c to 50c

Taylor Woodrow	50 to 32c
Dixons	50 to 55c
Whitsons	50 to 64c
Whitney Watson	10 to 15p
Zambian Copper	50 to 35p

### THE POUND

Bank	Bank	Bank
2.03	1.97	1.95
29.15	27.15	108.50
6.75	6.75	1.54
3.65	3.65	1.54
12.30	11.75	15.00
2.62	2.62	9.15
9.28	8.12	2.71
4.68	3.78	3.49
9.38	8.38	2.21
11.30	10.70	4.50
154.00	176.00	50.00
533.00	522.00	4.15
3.41		

## Japan heads for first trade deficit in years as growth slumps

From Peter Hazelhurst,

Tokyo, Dec 27

Japan's spectacular post-war rate of economic growth is expected to dwindle to less than 4 per cent next year, the lowest level in two decades of rapid industrialization, economists claimed today.

The country is expected to suffer a trade and current account deficit this year for the first time in 16 years and the trend will continue to hamper the economy during the coming year.

The Federation of Japanese Economic Organizations (Keidanren) said the government was unlikely to reach its target of 4.8 per cent growth.

Mr Toshiro Doko, president of Keidanren, said that rising oil prices would have an adverse impact on the economy and, at best, Japan could expect only 4 per cent growth next year.

"Japan might not even attain a 4 per cent growth rate if the price of oil is raised again during the next fiscal year," he said.

The Mitsubishi Research Institute (MRI) paints a gloomy picture claiming that the economy will grow at only 3.5 per cent in real terms.

MRI says that the combined growth rate of the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, West Germany, France and Italy is expected to decline to minus 0.5 per cent and that the volume of world imports will expand a mere 2 per cent in 1980.

Japan's exports will be re-

tained by a depreciation in the value of the yen. Overall oil is likely to push up the cost of imports to \$18,000m (£52.8bn); this year—a 40.5 per cent rise over last year's level.

As a result, Japan is expected to have a \$2,300 trade deficit at the end of this fiscal year.

"The current account balance is expected to mark a deficit of \$1,800m," MRI says.

It adds that with rising oil prices: "there will be little hope of a rapid return to a surplus in our balance of payments."

Exports are expected to retain their momentum in fiscal 1980 with a 6.4 per cent increase in volume and a 5.3 rise in prices. This will result in a customs clearance value of \$17,600m—12 per cent increase over the level in fiscal 1979.

MRI predicts that the total value of imports will soar to a record \$136,500m.

As a result Japan's trade account is likely to be \$5,500m in deficit next year.

Notwithstanding a sizable improvement in our balance in invisible, the current account deficit is expected to reach \$14,500m. Hence, the Japanese economy will be faced with a return to constraints on the balance of payments which had become virtually non-existent throughout the 1970s," the MRI report adds.

Reinforcing these projections, the Yamachii Research Institute, estimates the economy will expand by only 3.8 per cent next year.

## BL seals pact for Japanese to produce first car in Britain

From Our Correspondent

Tokyo, Dec 27

BL and Honda today ratified an agreement under which a Japanese car will be produced in the United Kingdom for the first time.

Terms of the agreement signed by Sir Michael Edwards and Mr Kiyoshi Kawashima, president of Honda, stipulates that BL will produce and sell the car under a Japanese licence.

Waving a small Japanese flag at the ceremony in Tokyo, Sir Michael described the agreement as critical to future employment at the British Leyland plants at Oxford. In addition, it would help to ease strains in trade between Britain and Japan.

He said: "A fully built-up model can be exported to a country with unemployment means that that country is then importing unemployment. If you do a technological deal where your car is built in another country, then that

country obtains a fair amount of employment in addition to the employment you have put in your own country. So that is a fairer solution to the problem."

Sir Michael went on to emphasize that BL would continue to design and manufacture its own range of vehicles.

BL had approached Honda for assistance "because it is a slim, streamlined company with many strengths where British Leyland has weaknesses", he added.

Under the agreement BL has been given the exclusive rights to produce and market the car in the nine EEC countries. Honda will produce the same model in Japan and market it under a different trade name in areas outside the EEC.

BL will purchase parts from Honda and the Japanese manufacturer will provide components such as engines and transmission during the initial stage of production.

Leyland leads sales of British-built cars but Ford heads market league table

By Edward Townsend

Ford's European policy of spreading car assembly operations across at least five countries has paid off again, with the company leading the United Kingdom car sales league for 1979. BL, however, has managed to sell more home-produced models in Britain than any other manufacturer.

In a year when total sales will reach a record 1.7 million, BL has sold 316,672 British-built cars against Ford's 247,342.

Of Ford's total British sales, which stood at 464,831 by the end of November, half were models built in Belgium, Germany, Spain and the Irish Republic.

Vauxhall's share was 94,448 and Chrysler's 82,450.

BL's 20-year-old Mini, with 1979 sales at an estimated

52,447, has easily outsold French-built Citroen and Peugeot imports, German VWs and Audi, Italian Fiat and Japanese Colt, Honda, Mazda and Toyota ranges.

With the result that Japan's share of the United Kingdom market was held at 11 per cent in 1978 and this year will fall to about 10.6 per cent. But Japanese car manufacturers claim that the reason for restraint was to allow the British industry to rebuild and after two years of holding back sales, there is no sign of this happening.

Against this background, talk

will be resumed

of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT).

The Japanese Automobile Manufacturers Association for Japan to continue its so-called voluntary restraint on car exports to the United Kingdom throughout 1980.

The Japanese Government has closely monitored car exports,

and Pensions. When asked why, the Revenue's argument was that the money was in effect tax which the Revenue felt was owed in respect of the foreign life fund.

Attempts to settle the over-

seas reinsurance business

reached their peak after the June Budget when the tax climate for wealthier investors was greatly improved.

In the event, it was the Inland Revenue, with a display of tactical finesse, which finally brought matters to a head.

Instead of approaching M & G about its suspicions that the foreign life fund was being used illegitimately, it forced the company to put its own house in order.

These activities of the M & G

Endowment and Pensions Assurance Company had been discussed at board level.

Mr David Hopkinson, who has taken over as managing director after the resignations of Mr Edgar Palamontano, the chairman, and Mr Clive Penn-Smith, the managing director, said yes-

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## Merchant banks prepare for a decade of change

The news that Hongkong and Shanghai Bank is finally planning to acquire the rest of Antony Gibbs is a fitting conclusion to a year when there has been an unusually high degree of activity in merchant banking.

Takeover rumours have continued to keep interest alive in some of the smaller banks like Brown Shipley and more especially Rea Brothers, whose stakes in a number of Scottish investment trusts in general and Furness Withy in particular make it a potentially rich prize when the chairman Mr Walter Salomon retires.

Dawnay Day, which has only just stopped bleeding from the secondary banking crisis, actually found itself on the wrong end of a bid from Rothschild Investment Trust, though the chief attraction here was the unit trust and insurance interests rather than its meagre banking side.

Others like Robert Fleming, which is even now having to accommodate itself to the new Banking Act by seeking authorized status, have begun to seek out fresh pastures in international fund management, which many merchant bankers see as one of the more attractive growth points in the 1980s, while Kleinwort Benson has gone one



Sir Philip de Zulueta: chairman of Antony Gibbs where Hongkong and Shanghai is interested in acquiring the 50 per cent it does not already control.

step further in paying £7m to buy a German-based bank as a springboard for international expansion.

Morgan Grenfell, with the sort of senior management block which is more generally thought to climb up the promotion ladder in clearing banks, has been busy reorganizing itself for the 1980s and Marsh and MacLennan's interest in Bowring has again presented the Bank of England with the thorny problem of whether a foreigner should control one of the select group of accepting houses, in this case Bowring's Siner & Friedlander subsidiary.

Elsewhere it has been largely a matter for rehabilitation of a sector that has for three years or more been one of the worst performers in the stockmarket and over the last year merchant bank shares have gained almost a fifth overall. Hambros' first half results were good enough to lay most of the ghosts of its shipping past, while other front rank banks like Kleinwort and Schroders have shown their paces on the back of advantageous banking conditions.

Hill Samuel however is still suffering at the hands of its insurance interests. Internationally, Morgan Grenfell and Kleinwort both underlined how adept the merchants could be to a new set of conditions, in this case the ending of exchange controls by launching Eurocurrency issue to tap the interest of United Kingdom institutional investors in foreign currency bonds. And at home Guinness Mahon quickly jumped on Credit Suisse First Boston's bandwagon by adapting the latter's drop-lock bond—designed to provide investors with some protection against volatile interest rates—for the local authority market at home.

Meanwhile apart from NatWest's County Bank which has won more than its fair share of the new issue business in 1979, the clearing banks' more aggressive moves into merchant banking do not appear to be giving the established houses too much cause for concern.

For the next year there is probably enough inbuilt momentum to keep merchant banking profits well ahead. On the banking side, loan demand will remain strong in the face of an expected corporate deficit in 1980 and margins on the sterling side will look attractive until interest rates start to decline at which point the banks will benefit from the gains to be obtained on their gilt and money market portfolios.

## Business Diary: Christmas presence • Going for a song

One of the lesser-known seasonal festivities is the lunch ICI gives for its former directors, at which one rather unusual guest this year was Bob Malpas.

Malpas stood out among the other board alumni in that he did not retire—indeed he was 51 when he went and the youngest member—but quit last year to become number two in Ralph Landau's United States proprietary technology group, Halcon International.

He joined ICI on his twenty-first birthday, leaving 30 years later after only three years on the board. He went from a company employing 150,000 people to one with a payroll of 700.

On the other hand, he had returned to this country after 12 years of ICI service abroad not only to a job on the board, but to taxation at 83 per cent on his salary of between £55,000 and £60,000.

Tax relief on mortgages stops at loans over £25,000, whereas

there is no ceiling in the United States. The United States top income tax rate was lower, and he could therefore expect to take home "several times more".

Malpas had two home thoughts from abroad when I spoke to him in London yesterday.

One, he said, was that though ICI was a "top-class firm" the fact that he, an "old, more recently" deputy chairman Sir Alan Pannock, had decided to move on before retirement was "totally healthy".

Two, the reduction of the top rate of income tax here to 60 per cent, much the same as he now pays in the United States, is not in itself enough for returning executives who want homes of a standard to which they have become accustomed.

The £25,000 limit should be scrapped, he said. "I'm told there's little prospect of this changing now the tax system has been changed".

£4,394—substantially less than in 1976 or 1974 and only 15.55 per cent up since the index was last published in 1977.

The indicator's unpredictability may have something to do with the unrepresentative shopping sample chosen by a true lover who insists on sending 184 birds over 12 days—but has to do also with the way such figures are prepared.

For instance, our nurserymen have reclassified four-foot pear trees. They now call them bushes. The decision to stick with trees, not bushes, cost us an extra £42. If our true lover mailed an over-ready corpse in the branches, instead of sending a daily live partridge, the saving would be £51.

London Zoo, which used to quote for some of the livestock, now declines, saying that it has not bought or sold for 15 years. This casts doubt on the validity of earlier estimates. Worse, Palmer's pet shop, to whom it referred us for turtle doves,

is difficult to find, since the in work is now thoroughly mechanized. We assumed once more that dairy persons would send for the information, a cultural rate and an eight-day day. Both assumptions, the National Union of Agricultural



Photograph: David Jones

Return of the native: Halcon International's Bob Malpas in London yesterday.

David Blake explains why the workings of the Community budget are unhelpful to Britain

## Mrs Thatcher's EEC payments problem

Can Mrs Thatcher achieve her goal of reducing Britain's contribution to the EEC from the level of £1,200m to zero?

The tables on this page, illustrating how funds flow into and out of the European Community, show just what a hard task the Prime Minister has in trying to cut back Britain's net contribution to the Community budget.

If we take as a rough measure of equity in taxation, the ability to pay as measured by wealth (or at least income) then the United Kingdom both pays too much into the Community and gets too little out. The reason for both of these disadvantages are buried deep in the structure of Community rules.

Take the taxation side of the equation first. The rules for raising the Community's revenue were rushed through in 1970 just before serious negotiations on British membership of the Community began.

A system for paying for Community spending, above all agriculture, was one of the prices which the French Government extracted in return for allowing the talks on enlargement to begin at all. A consequence of this was that the rules for raising money fitted the interests of the original six members of the EEC—France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

Community money, from 1980 onwards, will come from three sources. These are levies on imports of food covered by the common agricultural policy, tariffs on industrial goods and a share of the value added tax which each country collects. Only VAT equivalent to 1 per cent rate everywhere that would be expected, on the basis of its gross national product, is Britain. In 1980, on the basis of the early draft for the Community budget, we were expected to pay 20.49 per cent of the total cost compared to a gap which was 16.04 per cent of the Community total.

As the large table shows, contrary to common belief, our trade in industrial goods does much more to increase the amount we pay into the Community budget than does our import of food. There has been a definite switch in the sources

### WHERE THE MONEY WILL COME FROM IN 1980 (£M)

	Belgium	UK	Luxembourg	Denmark	Germany	France	Ireland	Italy	Netherlands	EEC
Tariffs	890	222	61	935	505	39	292	310	8337	
(%)	(26.7)	(6.7)	(2.4)	(29.9)	(15.1)	(1.1)	(8.8)	(9.3)	(10.6)	
Food levies	271	157	23	294	188	6	295	222	1457	
(%)	(18.6)	(10.8)	(1.6)	(20.2)	(12.8)	(0.4)	(20.3)	(15.2)	(16.0)	
VAT	989	267	150	1869	1405	49	621	345	5859	
(%)	(17.30)	(4.54)	(2.82)	(32.6)	(24.67)	(0.9)	(16.9)	(6.65)	(10.0)	
Total	2150	446	254	3161	2098	84	1209	877	10483	
(%)	(20.49)	(6.67)	(3.42)	(19.98)	(19.98)	(0.9)	(11.52)	(6.36)	(10.0)	
% of EEC gross	6.04	4.84	2.84	30.92	24.36	0.8	50.22	5.36		

Source: EEC Commission COM(78) 482—Converted at current exchange rates from estimated expenses in European Units of Account. Figures may not add up to totals, because of rounding.

from which we buy our food supplies, with other EEC countries gaining at the expense of the rest of the world.

Such switching cuts down our contribution to the EEC budget, because we do not pay levies on food imports. It does not, however, reduce the cost to us of the EEC policy of dear food. It just means that instead of buying levies which are used to buy up expensive food for storage, British consumers have to pay high prices direct to farmers in Community countries.

So any examination of the costs of EEC policies which looks solely at budgetary payments will tend to underestimate the cost to Britain quite substantially.

One of the proposals which the Commission has put forward for helping the United Kingdom is that some of the more onerous conditions should be removed, so that we would be free to switch back to £300m and £400m.

But even if we do restrict ourselves in this way, we find that, on EEC Commission estimates, the only country whose gross contribution—that is, the amount of money going into the Community coffers—is significantly higher than would be expected, on the basis of its gross national product, is Britain. In 1980, on the basis of the early draft for the Community budget, we were expected to pay 20.49 per cent of the total cost compared to a gap which was 16.04 per cent of the Community total.

It is the very large quantity of customs duties which we pay over to the EEC which is responsible for this. Our extraordinary tendency to import

manufactured goods in the past few years is a prime source of our EEC finance problem at the moment.

Although Mrs Thatcher says that the "payments into the budget are...in a sense our money" in any legal sense, Other Community countries are most unlikely to be unwilling to bear the tax rates of the Community just because one member wants to pay less.

Indeed, they realize that if they give in on our demands on their budget, they will have to pay more.

Do they do anything about the terms of the budget? As far as the side of the table shows, Britain gives over far less than its total share of the Community's output.

Unfortunately, the terms of the budget, set up in Dublin in 1975, are so restrictive as to mean that the likely gains to Britain from this "financial mechanism" as it is called, are liable either to be small or non-existent.

One of the proposals which the Commission has put forward for helping the United Kingdom is that some of the more onerous conditions should be removed, so that we would be free to switch back to £300m and £400m.

But it is clear that in present form this financial mechanism, the jewel in the crown of the Labour Government's renegotiation offers no substantial help to the United Kingdom.

It is, however, difficult to see

much being done in the immediate future which would fundamentally alter the pattern of payments into the Community budget, even though the removal of restrictions proposed by the Commission would be a help.

Although Mrs Thatcher says that the "payments into the budget are...in a sense our money" in any legal sense, Other Community countries are most unlikely to be unwilling to bear the tax rates of the Community just because one member wants to pay less.

Cutting down farm subsidies—right into the pit which has forced the EEC to present budgetary implications to national governments frightened of their farm impose "really severe

Spending more on other areas is, in some ways, even difficult.

Because Britain does badly out of the farming, it has to do spectacularly out of other things to compensate. In practice, things don't work out like that in the Community. Even if government can get over their reluctance to increase public spending in the Community, Britain's unlikely to be disproportionately great.

The best weapon Britain has on its side probably time. The cost of the EEC budget is increasing and will soon exceed Community's ability to without a new source of funds.

If Britain can hold out, that happens and then it is a source of revenue to which it would contribute little.

Although this could happen, one of the strongest cards in Thatcher's hand at the moment is the technical problems in trying this into a quick solution for the United Kingdom, very daunting indeed.

have less trouble in expanding their company. A computer system, by the addition of computer equipment (if that what they choose to do because interconnecting modules will be great variety of purposes.

"We foresee that in future there will be a role for a principal systems company which supplies many modules in an overall coordinating role. An essential requirement for such a principal systems company is the ability to provide continuity of support over long periods of time and in all parts of Europe and elsewhere in the world."

Dr Chris Wilson, managing director of ICL, noted recently: "We are living in a world in which the typical user-organisation's management is being based on all sides by enthusiasts with schemes for introducing mini or micro-computer projects in every area of the business.

"There is now hardly any flow of information in a business which is not a conceivable candidate for automatic processing, whether it be a sense of measurement or a robot, an automatic measurement or one of the usual forms of computer data."

Successful implementation of projects, Dr Wilson argues, will depend not only on a detailed knowledge of the particular business but also on familiarity with the hardware and software modules which are available as "bricks" from which to build a customer system.

"The aim is to provide a form of 'virtual compatibility' between computers and associated equipment of different makes by bridging modules which can translate from one language to another and so on to another," Dr Wilson says.

In the past, incompatibility between computers has meant that users have tended to become "locked into" a particular manufacturer's products. We foresee, however, that inevitably they will be taken into account towards each other," Dr Wilson says.

In a wider sense, hardware and software packages could be developed that all types of micro, mainframe and minicomputer systems could be more easily assembled. For ICL, this means a new role for its Data Systems subsidiary.

"At the small-machine end, the spectrum ICL recently announced a new 'systems house' trading policy under which minicomputers are being sold at discounts to systems houses which 'write' their own software and market the computer systems. The logical extension to this is that ICL products eventually will be on sale in shops and other retail outlets.

Suggestions that large frames will become the dominant form of computing will be premature. But the form of the market is being changed by the new technology.

Kenneth Ow

## A tight market for large cars

Clifford Webb

Granada is being offered at up to 17 per cent discount.

Vauxhall dealers are better off because they have been short of cars for most of the year. Even so, the Vauxhall Royale is being discounted by up to 12 per cent.

It is not only the British manufacturers who are suffering. All producers of large cars are finding it difficult to sell. Ford dealers are particularly worried about the large stocks they are carrying and having to finance them at the present record interest rates.

This setback is all the more damaging because it comes when Peugeot is trying to change the role of its United Kingdom network from a seller of restricted numbers of medium to large saloons to one competing in the volume business with an extended range of smaller cars.

Not only new car sales are worrying traders handling large cars. A BL dealer explained:

"Most large cars today are bought by companies or professional people who can afford both the purchase price and running costs in the course of their business. Not so second-hand large cars. They are invariably sold to private individuals who have to raise the purchase price, insure and pay increasingly primitive prices for petrol and servicing."

If we could move our second-hand stocks quicker, we could finance more new car sales."

The Rover 3500 autumn sales campaign mounted by BL, for example, was based on an offer of a smoked salmon to selected motorists who went for a test drive. Some dealers went much further and added "large price uplifts".

BL sales executives took action to counter the most glaring

## Stock Exchange Prices

**ACCOUNT DAYS:** Dealings Begin Today. Dealings End, Jan 11. § Contango Day, Jan 14. Settlement Day, Jan 21  
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

## Motoring

### The decade of increases in everything

As the 1970s draw to a close, what probably strikes the motorist most about the decade is the sharp increase in the cost of buying and maintaining his vehicle. For many people a car has long since become the biggest item of expenditure, not excluding the mortgage.

A few figures make the point. In 1973 the cheapest Mini cost £169 and the cheapest Ford Cortina £863. The equivalent prices today are £2,404 and £3,503 respectively. The average price of petrol in the same period has also approximately quadrupled, from 38p a gallon to around 120p. The cost of servicing, repairs and insurance has risen in the same proportion.

All other prices have gone up as well but not to the same extent. In the five years to 1977, for instance, while the retail price index doubled, motorists costs rose by 270 per cent. According to the Royal Automobile Club, the average family car fare in the 1970 to 1980



Best seller of the decade—the Ford Cortina

cc class) now represents an outlay in running costs and depreciation of well over £2,000 a year.

But the picture of a nation of car owners struggling to keep their vehicles on the road has been qualified by the large and growing number of cars maintained wholly or partly by companies. Guesses as to the size of the company car market vary but it is likely that no more than 30 per cent of the new cars sold in Britain are bought and run by private individuals out of their own pockets.

Some company cars are essential for the job: many are perks designed to boost a salary. The company car phenomenon is peculiar to Britain (where salaries are lower than in most continental countries) and is largely sustained by generous tax concessions. Were those allowances to be modified or

withdrawn—and the present Government has hinted at it—the consequences for the car industry would be profound.

Not only would the total car market decline but, more important, so would the share taken by home manufacturers. Another trend of the 1970s has been the huge and unforeseen rise in the number of imported cars. In 1970 they took only 15 per cent of the market and were not regarded as a serious threat. In 1979 they took about 5 per cent.

Fleet customers, however, have tended to stay loyal to British makes, partly out of patriotism but also because they find British models cheaper to run. On reliability British cars may have a poor reputation, perhaps not entirely deserved, but that seems to be more than offset by cheaper parts and lower insurance premiums.

Without the company car market the British motor industry might have collapsed by now. Ford, easily the most successful of the main manufacturers, owes its position very largely to domination of the fleet sector. That is why, year after year, the Cortina and the Escort come at the top of the sales league for individual models.

In face of the import surge, the saddest decline has been BL's. In 1970 British Leyland held 40 per cent of the new car market; in 1979 it was struggling to keep 20 per cent. It would take a book to diagnose Leyland's troubles but they have to do with low productivity, poor labour relations and mediocre products. Leyland men would say they have lost out to the foreigners through not having enough cars to sell, thanks to industrial disputes, at the right time. But even when available, the cars have not always been attractive and reliable.

The story of the British motor industry through the 1970s has been one of rationalization and Government intervention. British Leyland was in effect nationalized in 1975 and the Government also stepped in to rescue Chrysler before the American parent company's troubles at home caused it to quit Europe and sell its interests to Peugeot-Citroën in a surprise move that created the biggest European car-making group.

The other main British companies, Ford and Vauxhall, have both sought strength in closer ties with Europe. Ford is now run on Continental, rather than national, lines and makes almost the same models in several countries. General

Motors has trodden the same path, giving responsibility for European car design to its German subsidiary, Opel, with the result that all new Vauxhall models are thinly disguised Opels.

The most traumatic event of the decade for motorist and industry alike was the oil crisis of 1973-74. For a while it looked as if petrol would be rationed; some countries had banned motoring at weekends; and the future of the car was thrown into doubt. It was the end of cheap and plentiful fuel, to be sure, but the internal combustion petrol engine was found to have no serious challengers and should last the century as the motor car's principal means of power.

Although the events of 1973-74 came as a rude shock to motorists, they seem to have had little lasting effect.

"After a year or two petrol prices started climbing again as car mileages went back to precrisis levels, and more new cars were sold than before. Motorists seemed prepared to make almost any financial sacrifice, rather than give up the freedom and mobility that car ownership bestowed, and by the end of the decade there were more than 14 million cars on the roads of Britain, compared with 11,500,000 when the 1970s began."

#### Road Test: Cortina 1600

The most successful British car of the 1970s has been the Cortina. Every year since 1973 (with one exception) it has been the best selling model and will earn that distinction once more in 1979, with the highest annual sales—192,000—it has recorded. The Cortina supplied—and has continued to fulfil—the need

for a roomy, straightforward car easy to maintain and good value for money. Those qualities have won equal favour among private motorists and fleet buyers.

Another factor in its success has been constant revision. Hardly has the motorist got used to one Cortina shape than another has come in to replace it. The mark IV lasted only four years and so did the mark V.

The mark IV, which reminded some people of a Coca-Cola bottle, gave way to the present angular shape after six years, and in a further attempt to improve the mark V will be introduced in early 1980. Meanwhile, the latest model has undergone a minor revision, a set of minor technical changes that have nevertheless cost

not quite as light and responsive as one would wish and the brakes, though effective, require a good deal of pressure. On the other hand the gearbox (as on all Fords) is a delight with smooth, easy changes.

But if the handling is uninspired (and it will be interesting to see whether the mark V follows the Escort into front-wheel drive), the Cortina has several compensating virtues. Space is one of them, with ample room in the back for three people, and a good boot. Another is economy: on the 1600 GL I managed up to 33 miles to the gallon, while enjoyingappy acceleration (0 to 50 mph in under 11 seconds) and relaxed motorway cruising.

Different buyers will look to the Cortina in different ways. The fleet manager is concerned above all with running costs, and to want a car that is quick as service, has simple mechanisms that should not give trouble and for which there are cheap and plentiful parts. The Cortina passes each of those tests.

The private buyer will be no less anxious about costs but since the car is a personal possession he may

Peter Waymark

## FOREIGN REPORT

### East Timor

**No end to war after four years**

Fretelin resistance fighters emerged from their hideouts in East Timor recently and kidnapped an Indonesian government official during their search for food. A few days later he was found near Los Palos, in the east of the island, with his throat cut.

The incident was the latest, but probably not the last, in a war that has been fought doggedly across East Timor for the past four years. For Fretelin, a Marxist group which has been resisting Indonesian annexation of East Timor, it is an increasingly desperate struggle.

East Timor has never attracted much attention except when its territory is being fought over. It consists mainly of numerous ridges of barren hills. Only the valleys are productive or were, before the fighting started in 1975.

The main natural resource, timber, principally sandalwood, has been exploited since the Portuguese arrived 500 years ago. What the Portuguese did not cut was cut either by the East Timorese themselves or by the Australian and Japanese troops who used the island as a battleground during the Second World War.

The Portuguese put little into the island. When the Portuguese governor, who was sent to the capital, Dili, as a punishment, threw in the sponge and escaped to the offshore island of Atauro at the time of the Lisbon revolution in 1974, there were only a dozen miles of metalled road in the territory. The people either pursued their own crude form of agriculture or worked for the Portuguese owners of the coffee plantations. Illiteracy was about 94 per cent in the towns and 100 per cent outside.

In the dry season a journey of 70 miles to the interior could take 12 hours or more. In the wet season, even now, the roads are impassable.

#### Western security involvement

Fretelin was certainly not averse to turning its guns on anyone who did not agree with it, civilian or otherwise, and not a few Timorese are in somewhat uneasy cooperation with the Indonesians today as a reaction to the murder of family or friends by Fretelin.

The idea of an independent state, Marxist or otherwise, has taken the trouble to investigate the situation themselves, preferring to pick the brains of returning journalists. The first post-Vietnam anti-guerrilla war has been fought with all the benefits of American experience from that conflict but far fewer resources. General Dadang Kalbarudi, who commanded Indonesian forces against Fretelin, said: "The main technique General Dadang employed was to force the East Timorese into 'strategic hamlets' to isolate them from the Fretelin forces just as the United States tried to do in Vietnam. Since many East Timorese were forced to accompany Fretelin forces into the mountains to provide support, there may be many of them that were glad to be put into the new settlements that have now sprung up all over the eastern half of the island. Colossal Adis Sutiaji, Majapahit, who commands the military region that includes East Timor, from the more squalid atmosphere of Bali, insists that direct comparisons with Vietnam are not realistic but admits that his strategy for the fighting was a melange of his experience with the joint United Nations force that monitored the ceasefire-in-place in Vietnam and Indonesia's war of independence against the Dutch.

In Vietnam the United States did not pay attention to the will of the people in the villages. I have tried to get

A young victim of the war in East Timor shows signs of malnutrition. Relief agencies are treating thousands.

war who are now being treated by the thousand by Catholic Relief Services, the ICRC and the Indonesian Red Cross. The lives of thousands of these mountain people who fled the fighting have been saved by these organizations in relief programmes costing more than 175.

Once they are in these centres the language of education is Indonesian and there is an Indonesian military or police presence in every settlement. But again that must be balanced as an unprecedented level of health care, and an intention to develop that is supposed to meet other needs. Next year, according to the Indonesian, more will be spent per capita on development in East Timor than anywhere else in the republic.

It is not possible to ascertain the extent of the havoc that was wrought by the Indonesian Rockwell Bronco counter-insurgency aircraft used extensively against Fretelin and thus against several hundred thousand civilised. On a helicopter tour of various parts of East Timor there appeared to be

signs of the use of cluster bombs and phosphorous bombs to the north-west of the old provincial town of Viqueque. In other parts of the island there were burned areas in the valley where crops had been grown and where villagers' huts may have stood. It was not possible to visit the far eastern areas of the island around Los Palos, where two battalions of the Indonesian Army are still conducting clean-up operations.

Admiral Sudomo insists that it is "just a matter of time" before the operation is finished. The military estimate that there are only about 200 fighters and their followers left. The military must be earnestly hoping that the operation will be brought to a conclusion before the tally of about 4,000 casualties grows any larger.

Asked about the military's degree of responsibility for the starvation conditions of thousands of Timorese civilians in the mountains after the Indonesian invasion of 1975, General Dadang said: "This is one of the results of the excesses of the Fretelin movement in the past. We also bear some responsibility but the responsibility is not ours alone."

Asked how many civilians had died as a result of Indonesian military action, he said: "It is like asking how many were killed in Vietnam by United States air support. Nobody can tell."

#### Death of Fretelin President

There is little doubt, however, that with estimates of the number of dead from all causes since 1975 running anywhere between 50,000 and 300,000, the civilian population suffered far more casualties than the fighters on either side when they were trapped in the mountains by the Indonesian strategy of starving out Fretelin. When that proved to be too long a process for the likes of the Indonesian military, they launched a massacre through the mountains which undoubtedly dealt a heavy blow to Fretelin that was compounded last year with the death in an ambush of Nicolau Lobato, the Fretelin President.

The raids through the mountains further increased the sufferings of the civilian population.

Large numbers of the people of East Timor are now moving with an efficiency that has surprised experienced relief workers to provide the assistance necessary to make the relief operation a success it undoubtedly is.

David Watts

### Sahara

## King Hassan plays last real card in the wilderness

One of the best equipped and largest desert fighting units by the King's side has been formed since the days of Montgomery and Rommel has been manning the sandbowl wilderness along the Western Sahara's border with Algeria.

At the head of this unit of 5,000 men and 1,500 armoured Jeeps, truck-carriers and tanks is Colonel Ahmed Djimi, the 46-year-old senior aide de camp of King Hassan of Morocco, an inspiring professional soldier with what looks increasingly to be a "do or die" mission for his monarch.

The tribe seemed to be working on November 4, when the King promised President Tolbert of Liberia, the chief of the OAU, that he would attend the OAU meeting in Monrovia, called to discuss the report of the "three wise men". President Shagari of Nigeria, President Numeiri of the Sudan and President Nyere of Tanzania—who had been studying the problem at the OAU's request.

The trip seemed to be working on November 4, when the King promised President Tolbert of Liberia, the chief of the OAU, that he would attend the OAU meeting in Monrovia, which the Polisario Front claims would be one of the main resources of the Democratic Arab Saharan Republic. The Moroccan column surged eastwards towards the border with orders to push the Polisario back into Algeria by next summer. Two similar columns are shortly to be thrown into the battle.

The job has been codenamed Operation Obed, a famous victory in ADGZ, the third year of the Islamic Hégira, by Muslims from Medina against the pagans of Mecca. The choice of that name shows how strongly the King now believes he is fighting the "infidels" occupying the sacred land of Mecca.

The offensive in the desert, however, is the last real card the King has to play in the war of attrition with the Polisario that had been sapping the strength of his country for the past five years. Diplomatically the battle seems already lost and only militarily does he believe he can force a settlement on his terms.

#### Attacks mounted

Until the start of Operation Obed, Morocco had conducted a mainly defensive war against the Polisario. Towns in the contested area of Morocco, the former Spanish Sahara, which the Polisario Front claims would be one of the main resources of the Democratic Arab Saharan Republic and it is only a matter of time before the Polisario sends a representative to the OAU.

Within the Arab world, the King's enthusiastic support for the Camp David agreement almost cost him his only ally, Saudi Arabia. He is gradually being ostracised. Inside Morocco, too, problems are building up with inflation, fanned by a war costing £750,000 a day, now running at 20 per cent. Unemployment is rife, tourism is falling off and oil imports now cost more than the profit from the only mineral reserve, phosphates. On top of all that there is a bad harvest.

Although the King can still count on popular support within Morocco, the number of OAU members have recognised the Democratic Arab Saharan Republic and it is only a matter of time before the Polisario sends a representative to the OAU.

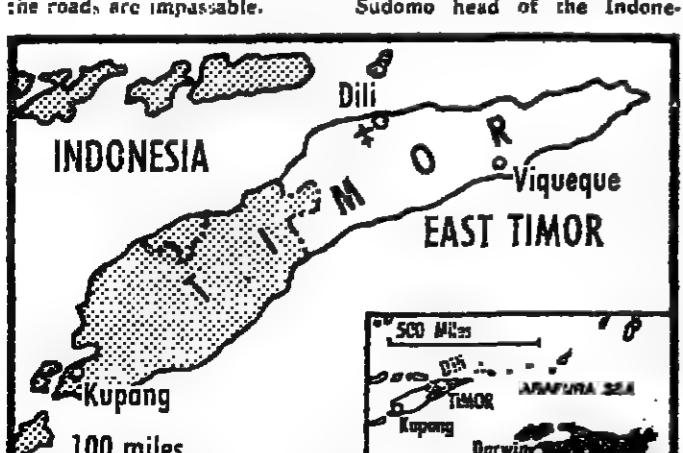
The second major factor in the decision to move on to the offensive was the collapse of the shaky alliance with Mauritania. Morocco's weak neighbour to the south had theoretically been standing firm against the common desert enemy. But on August 5 Mauritania negotiated a peace settlement in Algeria with the Polisario, ceding the right to the Mauritanian part of the contested area.

That threw the responsibility of policing the southern border wholly on to Morocco and enabled the guerrillas to consolidate their bases in the Saharan mountains. The King's response was to attack, which is why battles between the Moroccans and the Polisario have become increasingly common in the past two months.

Colonel Djimi has orders to push the guerrillas back over the "Algerian border". The Moroccan hope is that this will create such a problem for the Algerians that either they will impose a curfew or that they will encourage the Polisario to abandon Morocco from Algerian territory. That would give Morocco the initiative, which it has been lacking in its hot pursuit of the guerrillas in Algeria.

King Hassan had in a recent interview with *Time* magazine said peace would come in 1980 on his terms. He based that on confidences on the belief that

Ian Murray



## A furtive Christmas for Westerners in Saudi Arabia

This year more than ever, Christmas was a furtive occasion for Westerners in Saudi Arabia. Made uneasy by the violence of a month ago, they had no wish to be conspicuous.

In two weeks their confidence in the stability of the country was shattered. The siege at the Great Mosque in Mecca, and the coincidental Shia rioting in the eastern province seemed body blows to the Saudi state. It can be argued, though, that Saudi Arabia has the opportunity of coming through more united and stronger.

In Mecca, according to official announcements, 75 attackers and 60 troops died and 200 members of the Government forces were seriously wounded. In Sajah and Qatif, 50 miles from the crude export terminal of Ras Tanura, at least 17 people were killed in demonstrations and the Saudi-British Bank was stoned.

There are no reports of subsequent incidents, although

security is still tight around oilfields and travellers through the tribal heartland of the Nejd report roadblocks. Although the multinational oil and industrial complex have produced sweeping evacuation plans, one was going so far as to draw up a strategy for commanding the Royal Saudi Air Force's C-130 transports there is no reason to believe any present danger exists.

There is little doubt of what will happen to the attackers. At least 220 of the 500 or so insurgents are expected to be headed. There were women and children acting as cooks and messengers in their group: most of the women are assumed to have been led astray by feminine naivety and they and their children will be looked after as dependents of the victors.

They were almost all Saudi, with only a smattering from Pakistan, Egypt, Somalia, Morocco, and North and South Yemen. The group is thought to have links with an underground student reform society and the

Government apparently thinks that no foreign influence was at work.

Saudis are ambivalent about the events: they were, without exception, apathetic at the sacre but, equally, many had sympathy for the attackers.

There was distress at the threat to calm but virtual helplessness that someone had at last struck out. "If they had been any where else," one upper class Jiddah woman almost sighed but, not in the Mosque.

It was far from being the strings of revolution but unhappiness was exposed. It is increasingly common nowadays to hear middle-aged Saudis retelling the old days when friends were not always travelling, the children not in California, and the town small enough for visiting. There are genuine longings for a greater say: when not on their guard, Saudis can often show impotent fury at measured consensus decision-making and their own lack of power.

Those grumblies cannot be described as discontent. But there is a restlessness across society, a frustration spurred by opportunity that money cannot altogether treat. In the flux of change the appearances of social cohesion are preserved through custom and regulation. Some would argue that the core is turning brittle. The identification many feel with the Mosque attacks was a glory in the brief bursting of bonds such as the Shia were celebrating the release from a far less subtle oppression.

But in their ambivalence, Saudis have come closer together. They have stood by their kinship against the threat. The senior members of the Royal family, who still command respect and affection, have emerged well from the authorized version of events: the reservoir of loyalty was deep enough.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ing to attempt to maintain  
sic steel-making industry

*Sir R. Parkes*  
Our copper bars as hard as wheat, e. as cocco beans, silent reason that starting material for making steel, apart from and the commerce is now eroded to see it is cheaper overseas.

have we g to make basic country? It is time fact that bulk as running down us was nationalised, outmoded socialist justice". It had been exploited. You look at what the achieving led id BSC strike to commercial error, he advent of the possible Communism of bulk steel this could the writing was on the wall that old suppliers of steel would be the ones with interests in energy and costs than our own BSC, reorganizing at the absence of the economic actively assisting action of overg plants. Steel is cheaper reduced material,

shouldn't we be importing it and turning our attentions, realistically, to "adding value" in terms of its conversion into world-salable products? Our energies—and energy—would have utilized converting bought-in semi-finished products into specialty steels or high added-value products for export. For us to perpetuate the myth that because we were once a primary iron and steelmaking country, we have to go on being that and to export the product to sustain the concept of becoming an "industrial banana republic".

And if the cry is raised that we must have a healthy basic steel industry for national security purposes, I suggest we should think again of what would be more misleading plants would be to us totally dependent upon imported principal raw material. As for the now voiced complaints about the dire effects on the coal industry from the decline in primary steelmaking, it must make sense to use this for what it is—a chemical feedstock as valuable as oil in a world that is likely to be increasingly starved, actually or through price, of the products which could be derived from it.

Yours faithfully,

LESLIE R. PARKES,  
34 Wickliffe Road,  
Hunston,  
Ware, Hertfordshire SG12 8PD.  
December 14.

From Mr Larry Trimby,  
Sir, Mr F. H. Smith, as retired  
Head of Research and Development of the Strip Mills Divi-

panies' need of the  
stant's advice

*Swinburne*  
have "science-based people" on their boards).

Finally, Mr Ellis states that he never ran his plant or works on a money basis, but on the use of men and materials. Surely Mr Ellis is not so naive as to ignore the fact that money is required to pay men and purchase materials (and indeed the plant). Whether this money is generated from profits, from shareholders or by borrowing, such money needs not only recording, but also to be controlled and used efficiently. Surely accountants are best suited to advise on these areas in any organization.

No doubt, Mr Ellis himself ran a profitable and efficient business which did not need a "mattering accountant" to tell him how to maximise profits. However, I am convinced that many organizations have a real need for an accountant's advice in running the business, and while one sympathizes with Mr. Ellis for having an accountant who naively, ones hopes that the majority of the profession are able to give clear, concise advice, without unnecessary verbiage.

Yours faithfully,  
M. R. SWINBURNE,  
Resident Partner,  
The Accountancy Tuition  
Centre,  
Rother House,  
11-13 Speer Street,  
Manchester M1 1JU.  
December 17.

## of office space

*M*ost buildings in provincial towns over the past few years have risen very substantially for such spaces available. This flection of the market in certain parts of this country coupled with the disappearance of the crisis in 1974, response to an increase in the rents. It is reasonable for office to be developed in order to meet the demand and thus reduce the rent, who in the short term price of the land. The so-called ideal have been demand from landlords inter alia staff being well to their in the demand has in fact is and the rents of their own a necessity for the supply. Developers feel technological improvements in office like situations reduce their space then fallen and have risen the supply of as yet is 1 percentage

terms, will serve to bring the market back to equilibrium and is a classic response as with any other market where demand and supply will tend towards balance through the operation of the price mechanism.

Development of property to meet a demand which has appeared, as evidenced by increased rents, is a straightforward function of a market economy. It is of course to be distinguished from speculation in existing occupied buildings which is a function of an excess of money seeking an outlet when traditional investment media appear unattractive. New investment, on the other hand, is a responsible part of the wealth-creating process inherent in a free economy by bringing into use hitherto derelict sites.

Finally, may one be permitted to say that the ideal situation where all buildings are fully occupied at static rents cannot ever exist. Market forces work with a pendulum effect so that in time of shortage and excess demand, rents rise quickly and when occupiers unable to fulfil their occupancy requirements. When supply and demand are stable there will inevitably be a time where certain buildings stand empty until the process repeats itself. Pendulums never unfortunately stay still but one has the consolation that they are fleetingly vertical with considerable regularity.

Yours faithfully,

CHRISTINE VON LUTTITZ,  
Carter Peacock International,  
Westland House,  
17-19 Curzon Street,  
London W1V 7TF.  
December 12.

## cal training in schools

*I* have discussed my view point with many people in the country as a whole. My conclusion is that youngsters aged 14, not academically minded, should have technical training made available to them, and I would hope that among your readers there are persons with the right authority sufficiently interested to develop these ideas.

Yours faithfully,

STELLA FINER,  
Director,  
Carnegie Models Limited,  
23-25 Eastgate Street,  
London WIN 4DQ.  
December 13.

## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Stock markets

## Only gold shares active

*G*old shares saved the Stock Market from its usual post-Christmas hangover yesterday, as the bullion price soared through the psychological \$500 barrier.

But elsewhere, dealers reported quieter conditions than even those experienced on Christmas Eve as investors continued their extended Christmas holiday. The imminent national steel strike, which threatens to中断 large sectors of British Industry, also proved another deterrent for would-be speculators.

*R*iding on the crest of the strong Australian Market, the shares of Paringa Mining & Exploration have risen from a summer price of 17p to 57p yesterday. The equity has been additionally helped by hopes that exploration on the Paringa leases, next to those of the Ashmont Project, may come up trumps.

*L*ittle activity was also reported in the gilt edged sector where longs were mostly unchanged with falls of about £116 noted at the shorter end of the market.

After dipping 3.0 down at 3 pm the FT Index closed slightly better at the close being 2.8 off at 41.7 as the market showed a slightly firmer note after hours.

The threat of a confrontation between the United States and Iran coupled with a build up of Russian forces on its borders with Afghanistan was reported as the main reason for the rise in the bullion price which closed \$24 up at \$511. This prompted a flurry of activity among Gold shares with West MEPC at 53 up to 572; Western Holdings 55 stronger at 544 and Anglo American Gold 54 better at 575.

In the meantime, Kloe improved 52 to 527 while St Helena put on 52 to 288. Among London financials Consolidated Gold Fields gained 12p to 383 spurred on by the new gold level. RTZ improved 4p to 325p while in diamonds De Beers D'D advanced 5p to 5911.32. The excitement in golds

continued with falls of 5p to 543p while Sotheby's PB remained unchanged at 393p, after 403p ahead of results later in January. F. W. Thorpe was 7p better at 110p in a thin market and Moss Bros remained firm at 250p after 253p.

Fading bid hopes clapped 4p from Allied Colloids at 133p while Sotheby's PB remained unchanged at 393p, after 403p ahead of results later in January. F. W. Thorpe was 7p better at 110p in a thin market and Moss Bros remained firm at 250p after 253p.

Among the big four clearing banks Midland Bank slipped 7p to 343p while falls of 5p were noted in National Westminster at 351p and Lloyds at 305p. Barclays was 3p off at 343p.

Equity turnover on December 25, was £25,169m (4,621 bar. fig.). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were Tricentrol, BP, BP new, ICI, London, and Racal.

## Matsushita to expand

*M*atsushita Electric Industrial Company of Osaka says it plans to develop new products matching the changing needs of consumers, the company said.

The company's capacity to produce home-use video tape recorders will increase to 50,000 sets monthly in the middle of 1980 from the present 70,000 sets.

The increased fixed investments will aim at expanding the company's production of video tape recorders, electric refrigerators, and other electric home appliances as well as magnetic tapes.

Matsushita spent an estimated 70 billion yen in the business year ended November 26, for research and development, and plans to spend a larger amount during the

## Sime Darby

The Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange says Sime Darby BHD shares and Consolidated Plantations BHD shares and warrants will be listed from the start of trading today.

As previously reported, both companies recently completed transactions to enable them to Malaysia from the United Kingdom and a change to "Berhad" from "Limited" status.

Sime Darby has 425.1m 50 Malaysian cents per value issued shares while Consolidated Plantations have 456.8m shares and 3.45m warrants of 50 cents per value each on issue.

Frequently, the truly small company requires some assistance in addition to finance. The investor should therefore be equipped to act as an entrepreneurial partner, rather than regard the investee company as just another asset in his portfolio.

These of us who specialize in providing finance to really small companies feel that the institutions would need to build up new expertise in their face-to-face approach to the promising and usually quite self-confident entrepreneur. This expertise is not gained overnight and perhaps a formula can be worked out which would allow the funds of the institutions to be matched up with the expertise and experience of the venture capital experts, much in the same way that has occurred in the United States.

In this way, small companies which need a combination of finance and international marketing assistance can be helped to become viable nuclei for the next generation of British industry to succeed in world markets which will be increasingly subjected to cross-frontier competition.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTINE VON LUTTITZ,  
Carter Peacock International,  
Westland House,  
17-19 Curzon Street,  
London W1V 7TF.  
December 12.

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Mr Dennis Freethorn, managing director of Alusuisse (UK) and of Star Aluminium Company has been elected president of the International Federation for 1980. Mr. Freethorn's successor as vice-president will be Mr. David Morris, managing director of Alcan Aluminium (UK).

Mr Peter Cahill is now director and general manager of Oyeta Electronics.

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## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Vectis Stone ahead by one quarter

By Alison Mitchell

Construction and fuel distribution group Vectis Stone raised full-year profits by a quarter from £539,000 to £676,000 in the 12 months to September 30, 1979. Sales improved from £2.6m to £3.5m in the period.

Much of the improvement came from the construction division despite the civil engineering side turning in a loss. A first-time contribution from Celtic Oil Supplies, bought in December 1977, increased the profit from the fuel distribution subsidiary.

A final dividend of 9.5p gives shareholders a 75 per cent increase in the total payout at 14.5p where it is almost three times covered.

At the end of the financial year Isle of Wight-based Vectis was virtually ungered. However the purchase of an 89 per cent stake in Columbia Products has cost the group some £930,000. It is expected that details will be finalized within the next week or so on the purchase of the remaining 11 per cent.

The acquisition will be financed through a bank loan utilizing the cash flow from the oil division and a placing of Vectis shares. Yesterday the equity rose 1p to 31p.

## Wall Street

New York, Dec. 27.—Stocks were little changed in easy trading this morning. The Dow Jones industrial average was fractionally higher but declined led advances by about five-four.

Gold and silver stocks were firm

with ASA up 1 to 382, and Benguet up 1 to 51. Hecla was up 1 to 34, and Sunshine Mining 1 to 28.

Gaming stocks were largely lower. Bally Manufacturing lost 1 to 36; Caesar's World lost 1 to 18; and Resorts Class A on the American exchange eased 1 to 22.

## Silver in limit gains

Yester Day Gold and Silver futures gained 18 cents each limit gains all months except Spec December, with gains of 18 cents in ounce at a record closing of \$35.30 an ounce.

Gold closed at \$35.20 on Dec. 25.

Silver closed at \$1.20 on Dec. 25.

ASA closed at \$306.50 on Feb. 25.

Benguet closed at \$306.50 on Feb. 25.

Hecla closed at \$306.50 on Feb. 25.

Caesar's World closed at \$306.50 on Feb. 25.

Resorts closed at \$306.50 on Feb. 25.

Caesars closed at \$306.50 on Feb. 25.

## PERSONAL CHOICE



(right), Anthony Van Laist (left), and Paddy, wedding sequence from 'Kate' (BBC2, 8.15).

iles on both BBC and ITV indicate that television vice-like grip of Christmas television and that it will have to turn for programmes that are not only. Radio 4 (4.10) has a feature about the bizarre moon-motivated nightmare beloved of viewers... The eclectic Margaret Howard becomes ay. Normally it's the pick of the week's TV and times with which she is concerned. Tonight she presents the pick of the whole year... of that entertaining and instructional music quiz today (Radio 4, 12.27); the same four panellists i, Wallace, Ains) and the same charting the 'ive Race... For those starved of political goodies there is relief in the shape of William Golani, history at the University of Essex, who talks on Labour Leadership on Radio 4 at 9.30.

If there is promise of a good day's viewing, ending with a full-length portrait, fleshed out with film clips, of Erich von Stroheim; whose film director was legendary (BBC 2, 10.35 pm), a BBC 2 (4.25), there is John Huston's 1955 attempt and almost succeeding. His Moby Dick is us the minutiae about whales' lashless eyes and gills, but, thanks to a subtle printing process in black-and-white were blended to produce looks like old whaling prints, enough of the ure of Melville's book remains to satisfy seekers' inner truth. As for Sleuth (BBC 1, 9.15), it is a wickedly clever and managing to be both funny and as for casting, was Oliver ever more strangely he was by Michael Caine in Sleuth? I doubt it, nothing worth watching on independent y? You could, perhaps, try The Winds of Kitty le story of the Wright brothers, who pioneered the aeroplane. Maybe it is one of those made-for-TV occasions, manages not to look like something that our TV sets on a conveyor belt. Michael Moriarty plays the Wrights... The human star in tow is Liza Minelli, which bodes well for tonight's ingenious series in which manipulators andizers achieve minor miracles in the art of

MIBOL'S MEAN: \* STEREO; \* BLACK AND WHITE

## Buyers Guide

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YOUR AD.**

We make every effort to avoid  
errors in advertisements. Each  
one is carefully checked and  
proofed. When thousands of  
advertisements are handled  
each day mistakes do occur and  
we ask therefore that you check  
your ad and, if you spot an  
error, report it to the Classified  
Querries Department immediately  
by telephoning 01-537 1234  
(ext 7186). We regret that we  
cannot be responsible for more  
than one day's incorrect  
insertion if you do so.

**THE DEADLINE  
FOR ALL CATEGORIES**

24 HOURS.  
Alterations to copy is 3.00 pm  
prior to the due date of publication.  
For Monday's issue and the  
deadline 5.12 noon Saturday. On all  
other days a Story Number  
will be issued to the advertiser.  
On any subsequent queries  
regarding the cancellation, this  
Story Number must be quoted.

**BIRTHS**  
LUKE — As a father of three  
children, he is the third child  
of Mr and Mrs John Luke.  
He was born on Friday, 22nd  
December, at St. Mary's  
Hospital, Paddington, London.  
He weighed 7lb 10oz.

**DEATHS**  
ALLEN — On December 16th,  
at his home, 102, Westgate,  
Lewisham, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew  
Allen, 60, and 59, died.  
Burial will be at Lewisham  
Cemetery, December 20th.

**AVIATION** — On December 16th,  
at 10, Newlands, London,  
Mr. and Mrs. John and  
Doris, 60, and 59, died.  
Burial will be at Newlands  
Cemetery, December 20th.

**ERANDSON** — On December 16th,  
at 10, Newlands, London,  
Mr. and Mrs. John and  
Doris, 60, and 59, died.  
Burial will be at Newlands  
Cemetery, December 20th.

**CAPLAN** — In Sydney, Card  
Doctor, Dr. Michael Caplan,  
died on December 16th.  
Burial will be at Newlands  
Cemetery, December 20th.

**CHESTER** — In Sydney, Dr.  
Peter Chester, 62, died on  
December 16th.  
Burial will be at Newlands  
Cemetery, December 20th.

**COLLISON** — On December 16th,  
at 10, Newlands, London,  
Mr. and Mrs. John and  
Doris, 60, and 59, died.  
Burial will be at Newlands  
Cemetery, December 20th.

**DENNING** — On Thursday, 21st  
December, at 10, Newlands,  
London, Mr. and Mrs. John and  
Doris, 60, and 59, died.  
Burial will be at Newlands  
Cemetery, December 20th.

**FOOT** — On December 16th,  
at 10, Newlands, London,  
Mr. and Mrs. John and  
Doris, 60, and 59, died.  
Burial will be at Newlands  
Cemetery, December 20th.

**HUNT** — On December 16th,  
at 10, Newlands, London,  
Mr. and Mrs. John and  
Doris, 60, and 59, died.  
Burial will be at Newlands  
Cemetery, December 20th.

**MARTIN** — On 16th December, 16,  
at 10, Newlands, London,  
Mr. and Mrs. John and  
Doris, 60, and 59, died.  
Burial will be at Newlands  
Cemetery, December 20th.

**MILNER** — On December 16th,  
at 10, Newlands, London,  
Mr. and Mrs. John and  
Doris, 60, and 59, died.  
Burial will be at Newlands  
Cemetery, December 20th.

**GEELEY** — On December 16th,  
in Chelmsford, Essex,  
Mr. and Mrs. John and  
Doris, 60, and 59, died.  
Burial will be at Newlands  
Cemetery, December 20th.

**SWEETING** — On 20th December,  
at 10, Newlands, London,  
Mr. and Mrs. John and  
Doris, 60, and 59, died.  
Burial will be at Newlands  
Cemetery, December 20th.

**TAYLOR** — On Dec 22nd, to Lady  
Taylour, and husband son.

**MARRIAGES**  
GEELEY, ROTHSCHILD, December  
20th, 1979. Mr. S. A. Rothschild,  
Finsbury, and the late Dr. David  
Geeley, 39, Chelmsford, Essex.  
Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Geeley,  
of Winton, Finsbury.

**DEATHS**  
HUNTER — On December 16th,  
at his home, 27, Grosvenor  
Place, London, Mr. and Mrs.  
John and Dorothy Hunter,  
60, and 59, died.  
Burial will be at Newlands  
Cemetery, December 20th.

**DEATHS**  
MURKIN — On December 16th,  
at 10, Newlands, London,  
Mr. and Mrs. John and  
Doris, 60, and 59, died.  
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**DEATHS**  
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